104-10406-10358

Select Committee on Assassinations
U.S. House of Representatives
3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

May 17, 1978

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL 1998

JFK ACT
12-28-98
RELEASE

The Honorable James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D. C. 20408

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT

Dear Mr. Rhoads:

In connection with the Select Committee's investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I am writing with respect to the moratorium on the destruction of documents originally imposed on all Federal agencies by the Church Committee on January 27, 1975, and which was subsequently lifted by Chairman Inouye of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on December 21, 1977.

The Select Committee is aware of the tremendous burden placed on the agencies and, in particular, the National Archives and Records Service by this moratorium. Nevertheless, it is my understanding that it was voluntarily accepted and adhered to by everyone concerned.

Although this moratorium was not originally imposed by the Select Committee on Assassinations, we have requested that it be continued through December 31, 1978, with respect to all records and documents of the Central Intelligence Agency. Other arrangements have been worked out with the other agencies. After December 31, 1978, this Committee will have no objection to the Agency returning to the normal disposition of its records. In this connection, we also request that you suspend approval of existing schedules until December 31, 1978.

The Members of this Committee are cognizant that the CIA has made an effort to respond to the numerous requests from the Committee staff for access to documents that might have any bearing on our investigation, and we regret any adverse effect this request will have on the National Archives or the Agency.

Nevertheless, we feel that the risk, no matter how small, that a document relevant to our investigation might inadvertently be destroyed, cannot be justified in order to avoid an additional burden on the Agency or the Archives. Every file that this Committee requests access to has the potential of being pertinent in the final outcome of our investigation, and it is impossible, at any one point, to determine specifically which files we will need to see before the completion of our work. I think you will agree with me that it is extremely important that this Committee's investigation into the conduct of the intelligence community be conducted with both the appearance and the reality of thoroughness, fairness and objectivity, and that there not be either an appearance or the reality of the destruction of documents that might ultimately have some bearing on the outcome of the investigation.

The Select Committee is most appreciative of your cooperation in providing access to materials in the Archives, and your special efforts to preserve evidence that was deteriorating due to public access by withholding such evidence until such time as our staff has an opportunity to properly review it. We would be, therefore, most grateful for your assistance with this additional request.

Sincerely,

LOUIS STOKES
Chairman

LS:dm

cc: Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence

SECRECY AGREEMENT

1. I, _____, have been designated to participate in certain investigations being conducted by the Select Committee on Assassinations of the House of Representatives.

2. I understand that in the course of this investigation I may be granted access to information in unsanitized form which is classified pursuant to statute or executive order, or which has been designated by the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) for protection from unauthorized disclosure.

3. I have read the attached letter, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions.

4. Unless I am released from the terms of this Agreement by the DCI or the DCI's representative, in writing, I understand that the Agreement shall apply both during my association with the Committee, and at all times thereafter.

5. Pursuant to this Agreement, the DCI may exercise, in accordance with the Select Committee on Assassinations' Non-Disclosure Agreement, any and all of those sanctions set out in that Agreement which I have executed with the House Select Committee on Assassinations if I violate the terms of this Agreement.

6. I make this Agreement without any mental reservation, or purpose of evasion.

_____
Signature

_____
Date

WITNESS:

_____
Signature

_____
Date